

CLAIMS

1 8. (*currently amended*) ~~An array hybridization-A~~ method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization
4 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by
5 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;
6 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell having
7 a probe array so that centrifugal forces force in excess of 1G urges said
8 sample liquid against said array; and
9 agitating said sample liquid in said reaction cell during said
10 centrifuging so that said sample liquid moves relative to said array.

1 9. (*currently amended*) ~~An array hybridization-A~~ method as
2 recited in Claim 8 wherein said agitation involves rotating said sample
3 reaction cell about an agitation axis that is more orthogonal to than
4 along said centrifugal force.

1 10. (*currently amended*) ~~An array hybridization-A~~ method as
2 recited in Claim 9 wherein said agitating involves periodically changing
3 the direction of rotation about said agitation axis so as to define an
4 agitation cycle rate.

1 11. (*currently amended*) ~~An array hybridization-A~~ method as
2 recited in Claim ~~11-10~~ wherein said centrifuging involves rotating said
3 reaction cell at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

1 12. (*currently amended*) ~~An array hybridization-A~~ method as
2 recited in Claim 10 wherein said agitation involves rotating said
3 sample-reaction cell about an agitation axis that extends more parallel
4 to than orthogonal to said centrifuge axis .

1 13. (*currently amended*) ~~An array hybridization-A~~ method as
2 recited in Claim 12 wherein said array extends more orthogonal to said
3 centrifugal force than along it so that said centrifugal forces urges said
4 sample liquid against said array.

1 14. (currently amended) ~~An array hybridization~~ A method as
2 recited in Claim 13 further comprising a step of removing sample
3 liquid from said reaction cell, said removing step involving rotating
4 said reaction cell by rotating it about said agitation axis so that said
5 centrifugal force urges said fluid in said reaction cell away from said
6 array.

1 15. (currently amended) ~~An array hybridization~~ A method as
2 recited in Claim 8 wherein said sample liquid occupies at most half of
said interior volume~~said reaction cell is filled at most half way with~~
4 ~~said sample liquid.~~

1 16. (new) A method comprising:
2 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization
3 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by
4 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;
5 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that
6 centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said array; and
7 rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis that is more
8 orthogonal to than along said centrifugal force so that said sample
9 liquid moves relative to said array.

1 17. (new) A method as recited in Claim 16 wherein said agitating
2 involves periodically changing the direction of rotation about said
3 agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1 18. (new) A method as recited in Claim 17 wherein said
2 centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell at a centrifuge rate
3 greater than said agitation rate.

1 19. (new) A method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said sample
2 liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume.

1 20. (*new*) A method comprising:
2 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization
3 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by
4 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;
5 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that
6 centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said array; and
7 rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis that is more
8 parallel than orthogonal to said centrifugal force so that said sample
9 liquid moves relative to said array.

1 21. (*new*) A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein said agitating
2 involves periodically changing the direction of rotation about said
3 agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1 22. (*new*) A method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said
2 centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell at a centrifuge rate
3 greater than said agitation rate.

1 23. (*new*) A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein said array
2 extends more orthogonal to said centrifugal force than along it so that
3 said centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said array.

1 24. (*new*) A method as recited in Claim 23 further comprising
2 removing sample liquid from said reaction cell, said removing
3 involving rotating said reaction cell by rotating it about said agitation
4 axis so that said centrifugal force urges said fluid in said reaction cell
5 away from said array.

1 25. (*new*) A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein said sample
2 liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume.